

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00367 160708Z

13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /033 W

----- 048362

R 160646Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4845

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, UR

SUBJECT: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 18007; (B) STATE 272783

1. BIO INFO SUPPLIED REF A ON NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA ALEKSANDR VASILYEVICH BASOV DEPICTS A MAN WHOSE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE DIFFER COMPLETELY WITH THOSE OF HIS CAREERIST PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR DMITRI MUSIN, WHO WILL BE LEAVING CANBERRA JANUARY 22. MUSIN TOLD ME JANUARY 16 THAT HE HAS NEVER MET BASOV, BUT HE WAS FRANKLY PUZZLED WHY HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSIGN AN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA WHO HAD NO COMMAND OF ENGLISH. HE IMPLIED OTHER CRITICISMS AS WELL BY HIS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

2. THERE HAS BEEN SOME PRESS SPECULATION HERE TO THE EFFECT THAT BASOV'S APPOINTMENT REPRESENTS AN UPGRADING OF THE CANBERRA POST. WHATEVER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BASOV'S APPOINTMENT, MUSIN'S DEPARTURE SEEMS RELATED TO HIS POOR STATE OF HEALTH, HAVING RECENTLY SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK COMPOUNDED BY A NON-FUNCTIONING LEFT LUNG FROM WORLD WAR II. MUSIN, WHO IS BEING ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF UK AFFAIRS IN THE SECOND EUROPEAN DIVISION  
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00367 160708Z

OF THE SOVIET FONOFF, HAS HAD A SUCCESSFUL TWO AND ONE-HALF

YEAR TOUR OF DUTY IN CANBERRA WHERE HIS GRACIOUS, ALERT,  
SOFT-SPOKEN MANNER HAS APPEALED TO OTHER DIPLOMATS AND AUSTRALIAN  
AUTHORITIES GENERALLY. HIS COMMAND OF ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

3. I SUSPECT FROM REF B THAT BASOV HAS THOSE PERSONAL QUALITIES  
WHICH WILL NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH AUSTRALIANS, QUITE APART FROM  
HIS IGNORANCE OF ENGLISH.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CANBER00367  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750016-1022  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750147/aaaabpkd.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MOSCOW 18007, 75 STATE 272783  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, UR, (BASOV, ALEKSANDR VASILYEVICH)  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006